



***Making Tracks***  
Missouri Department of Conservation  
2360 Hwy D  
St. Charles, MO 63304  
[www.mdc.state.mo.us](http://www.mdc.state.mo.us)

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**August A. Busch Memorial Conservation Area**  
**Powder Valley Conservation Nature Center**  
**Rockwoods Reservation**



***Making Tracks***  
***is about to change –***  
***for the better!***

Because we're expanding our region and there are more activities to cover, we'll be changing the format to include all of the programs and special events in the entire St. Louis area. So no matter where you live, where you play, or where you learn about the outdoors, you'll have a complete listing of everything the Missouri Department of Conservation has to offer. Look for the new *Making Tracks* format to arrive in January of 2004.

# Making Tracks

## Editor:

Holly Berthold

*Metro Media Specialist*

## Layout:

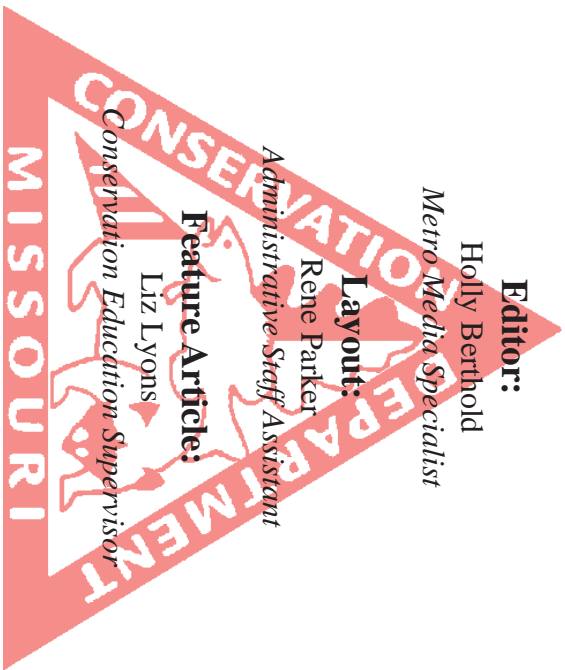
Rene Parker

*Administrative Staff Assistant*

## Feature Article:

Liz Lyons

*Conservation Education Supervisor*



# Volunteer

## Milestones

### Powder Valley Nature Center

Bob Anderson....2400 hours  
Warene Anderson...3500 hours  
Lawrence Burtelow..100 hours  
John Gerwitz.....200 hours  
John Hagar.....400 hours  
Bill Heady.....800 hours  
Christine Jeep.....200 hours  
Priscilla Jenkins...500 hours  
Arta Kirk.....500 hours  
Paula Lee.....1000 hours  
Bill Maass.....3100 hours  
Rita Mueller.....900 hours  
Art Paule.....3700 hours  
Ed Witte.....2300 hours

### *Thanks for all your effort and help!*

### Busch Conservation Area

Dorothy Niemeyer..2700 hours  
Karen Staloch.....2100 hours  
Glady's Kullman....1700 hours  
Kathy Thiele.....1100 hours

### Rockwoods Reservation

Meg Wilson.....700 hours  
Mary Demmitt.....825 hours

The alarm clock goes off. It can't possibly be time to get up; it's still dark! You roll out of bed and your warm feet hit the cold floor. All your body wants to do is crawl back to bed and sleep for the rest of the winter.

Sound familiar? It's so hard for us to climb out of a warm, snug bed in the middle of winter, but we have to. Hunger (and some other biological needs) would eventually drag us out of our blanket cocoon. Many animals face the same situation, however, they are specially adapted to stay in "bed" all winter long. Doesn't that sound cozy?

In Missouri, we have many different kinds of animals that *hibernate*, or go into a biological state where their body temperature lowers, their breathing and heart rate slows, and they are difficult to awaken. They eat like crazy all summer and fall, packing on the brown fat that will last them through the winter months. Just as there are different types of animals that hibernate, there are also different kinds of hibernation.

Some animals, like woodchucks, ground squirrels and bats, are "true" hibernators. A woodchuck's heart rate goes from 80 – 95 beats a minute when active to 4 or 5 beats a minute when hibernating. Its breathing may slow to only one breath every 5 – 6 minutes, and its body temperature drops from 98 degrees F to 38 degrees F.

Ground squirrels hibernate in a tunnel as much as 20 feet long and well below the frost line in the soil. Carrying seeds in their cheek pouches, they fill food storage chambers throughout the tunnel. Some true hibernators get up every few weeks to nibble on food and ... well, use the restroom.

When people think about animals that sleep all winter, the first animals that come to mind are usually bears, however, they are not true hibernators. They actually just take really long naps, and can be awakened easily. Though their metabolism does slow down a little, it is not as dramatic as that of a true hibernator. Some other animals that fit the same category as bears include skunks, raccoons and opossums.

### Frozen Frogs

Because frogs are cold-blooded, they do not have the ability to raise their own body temperatures. That usually means frogs

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December 2003

Volume 03 Number 12

## A Winter's Sleep

By Liz Lyons,

*Conservation Education Supervisor*



have to go deep into the ground, below the frost line or into the mud at the bottom of a pond. Some species of frogs, like the wood frog (*Rana sylvatica*), gray treefrog (*Hyla versicolor*) and spring peeper (*Pseudacris crucifer*) have a special tolerance to freezing.

Just like a car's engine, these frogs use a special kind of "antifreeze" to protect their bodies. This antifreeze is produced in their livers from natural sugars. Within 10 – 15 minutes after the wood frog and spring peeper's toes start to freeze, glucose is transported throughout their bodies (the gray treefrog uses glycercol instead). Complete freezing of the frog's body takes about 24 hours. Respiratory movements, circulation and heartbeat stop. A frozen frog is stiff and white. The eyes are opaque and more than half of the water in its body has turned to ice. The frog can stay frozen for up to two weeks. Sounds like a chilly way to spend the winter, doesn't it?

The next time your alarm clock goes off and you want to stay in your warm bed, just think about the frozen frogs. Getting out of bed might seem pretty nice after all!

For more information about other Missouri species that hibernate, check out our website: [www.mdc.state.mo.us](http://www.mdc.state.mo.us); type in "hibernation" as a keyword search.



News from

# Powder Valley

Conservation  
Nature Center

Lewis and Clark and the Corps of Discovery were definitely not home for Christmas 1803. On December 12, Clark landed the keelboat 17 miles upstream from St. Louis, near the mouth of Wood River on the U.S. side of the Mississippi where it met the Missouri River. The next day, Clark chose a well-timbered bottomland site. He immediately put his men to work clearing land and cutting logs for the 8 to 10 huts which would comprise the fort, dubbed Camp DuBois (Camp Wood). The men finished most of the huts within a week. Once his men were housed, Clark had them begin his hut on December 21. By Christmas Eve, the fort was finished.

The crew kept busy with a variety of tasks. Regular target practice improved their shooting skills. They hunted for deer, turkey, rabbits, raccoons and squirrels. They caught catfish. They collected honey from bee trees. And, of course, the crew prepared for the journey.

Preparations included modifying the keelboat and pirogues. The men sawed planks from trees and used them to build lidded lockers along the interior sides of the boat. These were used for several things besides storage. The lids formed catwalks or “passé-avants” for poling the boat – pushing it upstream. The lids could be flipped up as shields in case of attack. The men cut some of the planks into 3-foot-long benches that ran crosswise between lockers. The men would sit on these while using the oars to row the boat. They also built upright supports that were forked on the top into which removable ridgepoles rested. They fitted this assembly with awnings for shade during the journey. Their blacksmith made iron hinges and other fixtures for the boats. Armament was added to the boats. A small bow cannon and swivel guns on the stern were installed. The two pirogues were also fitted with one swivel gun each.

Christmas arrived amidst all this hard work. Clark wrote, “The men frolicked and hunted all day. Several Turkey Killed. Shields returned with a cheese and 4 lb butter. Three Indians Come to day to take Christmas with us.” Frolicking included playing music, singing and dancing. We might think they included songs like *Silent Night* or *Away in a Manger* but these songs hadn’t even been written yet!

Sing the songs and listen to the music of Christmas 1803 at **Powder Valley’s “Christmas at Camp Wood” on December 6 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.** Learn more about the camp, the crew and the keelboat. Make a fort and pirogue to take home with you. Watch flintlock rifle demonstrations. Kids can try for prizes at target practice. Tour the keelboat and learn how it was made ready for the journey. Stories and songs will take place from 10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. – 2 p.m. Crafts, flintlock demos, target practice and keelboat talks will be ongoing from 11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m. *Reservations are necessary for stories and songs and will be taken beginning November 21.* For more information call (314) 301-1500.



CHRISTMAS  
AT  
CAMP WOOD

By Janice Starke,  
Interpretive Programs Supervisor

11715 Cragwold Road  
Kirkwood, MO 63122  
(314) 301-1500

**LOCATION:**  
From I-44 east in Kirkwood, take Watson Road, exit and turn north on Geyer Road. Follow Geyer Road 200 yards to Cragwold Road. Go 1 mile west on Cragwold Road.

**AREA HOURS:**  
Daylight Saving Time:  
8 a.m. to 8 p.m.  
Central Standard Time:  
8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

**NATURE CENTER HOURS:**  
Open all year, 7 days a week, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**GIFT SHOP HOURS:**  
Open all year, 7 days a week, from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

**ABOUT THE AREA:**  
112 acres of forestland and winding creeks, three hiking trails (one wheelchair accessible). Open to visitors free of charge.

## December Hallway Exhibit

### Missouri Nature & Environmental Photographers Juried Exhibit

This month’s Hallway Exhibit features juried works by members of the Missouri Nature & Environmental Photographers, also known as MoNEP. MoNEP provides a forum for individuals who are interested in the field of nature photography and the environment. In addition to providing education and gathering and disseminating information, MoNEP promotes nature photography as an art form and medium of communication.

## The Educators’ Niche

### MDC Soulard Office

### Moves to Forest Park

By Dick Turner, Conservation Education Consultant

To improve Missouri Department of Conservation facilities and accessibility in St. Louis City, the Soulard office has relocated to the Dennis and Judith Jones Visitor and Education Center in Forest Park.

MDC services offered at the new location will be similar to those previously offered at the Soulard office, with a few minor changes. Educational opportunities at the new location will be greatly enhanced.

The Visitor and Education Center is located at 5595 Grand Drive, St. Louis, MO 63112, in the building formerly known as the Lindell Pavilion. Operated by Forest Park Forever in conjunction with the St. Louis Convention and Visitors’ Commission, the center will also house offices for OASIS and MDC. Near major transportation routes in the heart of St. Louis’ population center, the new facility offers easy access from most city locations. The 22,000-square-foot facility contains classrooms, visitor services, a gift shop, a food concession and an event space that can accommodate up to 400 people. MDC gifts, reading material and hunting/fishing permits can be purchased in the gift shop. A Department of Conservation staff member is available at the center to handle conservation inquiries.

Classrooms and conference areas in the new facility will be used for experiential learning programs, student/teacher enrichment seminars and as a home base for the *Voyage of Learning* Teacher’s Academy. Near the visitor center, the newly renovated Forest Park Hatchery Lakes provide a place for aquatic education opportunities. The hatchery lakes will be used for school classes and teacher workshops. Other supervised youth and disabled user groups may schedule these lakes for **educational fishing events** when lakes are not scheduled by schools. MDC encourages the use of these lakes for a variety of aquatic education experiences. To make a reservation for the hatchery lakes, call the MDC office at Forest Park at (314) 877-1309 and a field trip guideline will be sent to you.

One of the changes at the new location is that the MDC Outdoor Teacher Resource Center is no longer available, as it was at the Soulard location. Some printed material will be available at the new site, but to obtain teaching materials such as posters or student manuals, teachers will need to contact the Forest Park office to arrange a time to pick up or view materials. Discovery Trunks can be reserved and obtained at the Forest Park office.

Missouri Department of Conservation personnel at the Dennis and Judith Jones Visitor and Education Center in Forest Park will be happy to help you. Contact the following staff members Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.:

Jake Waters or Norma King at the Visitors’ Information Center, (314) 877-1309  
Dennis Cooke, Outdoor Skills Specialist, (314) 877-1309, or e-mail: Dennis.Cooke@mdc.mo.gov  
Dick Turner, Conservation Education Consultant, (314) 877-1309, or e-mail: Dick.Turner@mdc.mo.gov

Stop by and see the new habitat! As always, thanks for being a part of conservation education.



### SHOOTING RANGES

#### Busch Hours for December 2003

10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Friday – Tuesday  
Closed Wednesday & Thursday  
Call (636) 441-4554 for info

#### Henges Hours for December 2003

10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Wednesday – Sunday  
Closed Monday & Tuesday  
Call (636) 938-9548

Ranges close for Special Events & Holidays

### Tap Into Spring

A Workshop for Educators Grades K - 8

Join Missouri Botanical Garden and Missouri Department of Conservation staff as we discover the seasonal changes of spring. An introduction to the “Journey North” program, Earthwalk sensory awareness activities, migration patterns, as well as uses of journal writing and assessments are included in the workshop. Overnight participants will be able to enjoy the night hike, astronomy activities, campfire and s’mores provided!

#### Overnight Opportunity

Date: Friday, March 5, 2004

Time: 6 p.m.

Fee: \$30 (includes evening activities, lodging, snack and continental breakfast)

Location: Dana Brown Overnight Education Center, Shaw Nature Reserve, Gray Summit, MO

#### Day Workshop

Date: Saturday, March 6, 2004

Time: 8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Fee: \$50 (includes box lunch)

Location: Dana Brown Overnight Education Center  
Shaw Nature Reserve, Gray Summit, MO

Registration information will be available in the January *Making Tracks*.



News from

August A. Busch

Memorial Conservation Area

Missouri's Mysterious Mistletoe

By Mike Arduser, Natural History Regional Biologist

The mistletoe tradition – you know, the kissing one – seems to be one of those requisite holiday “standards” forever veiled in folklore and mystery. Contrived perhaps by some clever Romeo as a way to gain the favor of his Juliet, “kissing under the mistletoe” apparently started centuries ago in Europe, and is still with us today. And so are the mistletoe plants. Mysterious, that is.

For example: Have you ever heard of a Missouri shrub that grows high above the ground, but doesn't have its roots in the soil? And have you ever heard of a Missouri shrub that survives by “stealing” from trees? Your answer, of course, is yes: mistletoe.

Mistletoes are a widespread group of parasitic flowering plants with several hundred species in the New World and the Old. Only one species occurs in Missouri, where it is restricted to bottomlands and riversides in the southern Ozarks and parts of the Bootheel. A small, tufted, broad-leaved evergreen plant with tiny flowers and whitish fruits, our mistletoe is most easily seen on winter float trips along some of our Ozark rivers, silhouetted against the sky. Mistletoes make their living by “tapping into” the vascular system of trees, much like the way we tap maple trees for the sap to make syrup. A plant's vascular system is its distribution system, bringing water and nutrients up from the ground and sending the products of photosynthesis (tree food) where they are needed. Mistletoes obtain all their water and minerals from their “host” tree, but because they have green leaves, can make their own food. American elm, silver maple, sycamore and other bottomland trees are the trees most commonly used as hosts in Missouri.

New mistletoe plants can only “get started” on the younger branches of trees, where the bark is thin and the mistletoe roots can easily grow into the host's vascular tissue. Seed dispersal depends on birds (cedar waxwings, robins, bluebirds and others), who eat the sticky fruits and either wipe the seeds on nearby branches or spread them in their droppings. Remember: the fruits are toxic to humans and livestock, so if you have real mistletoe around the house over the holidays, keep it away from children and pets. 🐾



Remember your feathered friends this holiday season and add decorative color to your yard naturally!

By Rhonda Anderson, Interpretive Programs Supervisor

So you're ready for the holidays, right? The decorations are up, the presents are wrapped, the holiday dinner is planned - but have you done anything for your feathered friends? Oh sure, the feeders are filled with bird seed, but you do that all winter long. How about making this month special for the birds that brighten up your yard. What can you do? Try decorating a tree or shrub in your yard just for them! Here's how:

**Edible Garland**

- string raisins, peanuts in the shell, cranberries, or small pieces of apple, orange or other fruit, and wrap the strings around a tree or shrub in the yard.

**Edible Wreaths**

- cut wire and make into a circle, bend ends over so they can be hooked together when finished
- carefully push cranberries or small fruit onto the wire
- hook ends together and hang

**DO NOT** use bread, cereal or cheese puffs. Although these may be filling for the birds, they have little nutritional value and can cause a bird to starve to death on a full stomach. Don't forget the water! Even in the winter, birds still need to drink water. You can buy a heater for your bird bath or put out a shallow dish of water that can be easily thawed out and the water changed. 🐾

2360 Hwy D  
St. Charles, MO 63304  
(636) 441-4554

LOCATION:

From Hwy 40, take 94 south to Hwy D; turn west on D for approximately 1 mile.

From I-70, take 94/First Capitol exit; turn south on Hwy 94 to Hwy D; turn west on D for approximately 1 mile. The area entrance is on the north side of Hwy D.

HOURS:

Area is open from 6 a.m. until 10 p.m. See area regulations for special hunt hours. Fishing hours are from 6 a.m. until 9 p.m. Rental boats are available April 1 through September 30. The office is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. It is closed some state holidays.

ABOUT THE AREA:

6,987 acres with 32 lakes and 40 ponds totaling 526 acres of water for fishing. There are six viewing blinds (two are wheelchair accessible), seven hiking trails totaling 5 miles, picnic area, staffed firearms range, and fishing jetties (some are wheelchair accessible). The area has interpretive programs, exhibits and demonstration sites and is used by bicyclists.

News from

Rockwoods

Reservation

Treecycling

By Tom Meister, Wildlife Damage Biologist, and Mark Grueber, Urban Forester

As the holidays wind down each year, we are left with a tree and a question: “What can I do with it?” The answer is recycling your tree. One of the easiest ways is to make a brush pile in your backyard. Nearly all animals need cover to escape from predators, rest in safety, nest and raise their young. Brush piles represent an important cover to several species of small mammals, ground-nesting birds, amphibians and reptiles. Discarded Christmas trees, without tinsel, make ideal brush piles that will last several years. To make them even more effective, place an old pallet or similar material on the ground and pile the trees on top.

Proper placement of brush piles allows relatively safe access to food sources and permits wildlife to forage over a large area. Brush piles should be placed at intervals near feeding areas, along field borders and within idle fields. Avoid the bottoms of drainages and low spots where water might render the brush pile useless.

If you have a pond or lake or if there is one in your neighborhood, brush piles also can provide important habitat for fish. They too need cover so they can escape from predators and rest in safety.

If you don't have a pond or an area to build a brush pile, you can still contribute to recycling and improving wildlife habitat by bringing your tree to Rockwoods Reservation. We will use some of the trees to construct brush piles for wildlife habitat on our area. The remaining trees will be chipped into mulch that will be available to the public for free! Mulching your tree is one of the best preventive treatments against insect and disease attack. Most insects and diseases that are harmful to plants are *opportunists*, that is, they can only successfully attack plants that are under stress. Proper mulching helps to maintain a more constant soil temperature and helps to hold moisture during dry periods. Mulching also recycles important nutrients back into the soil as it decomposes. All of this helps keep your roots “happy” and makes for a healthier tree.

Before dropping off your tree for recycling, please remove tinsel, ornaments and the plastic bag in which you transported it. For a list of nearby sites where you can recycle your tree or for additional information, contact Rockwoods Reservation at (636) 458-2236. 🐾

Ask the Naturalist

**Question:** What is the difference between a wild animal, a domestic animal and a feral animal? *Angela Avery, St. Louis*

**Answer:** Wild animals can survive on their own outside. A bobcat is a wild animal because it can find food, water and shelter without any human help. Domestic animals, like a pet house cat, have wild ancestors but have been selectively bred over time for a certain purpose. Domestic animals depend on people to provide food, water and shelter for them.

Sometimes a domestic animal may be turned loose outside. If that animal can survive on its own without human help, it is called a feral animal. A pet house cat that has been turned loose outside and can find food, water and shelter without help is considered a feral cat.



Shanna Raecker  
Naturalist

2751 Glencoe Road  
Wildwood, MO 63038  
(636) 458-2236

LOCATION:

From I-44, take Hwy 109 (Eureka exit) north 4 miles to Woods Avenue; left on

Woods Avenue; and then immediately right on Glencoe Road; follow signs.

From Hwy 40, take Clarkson Road south to Manchester Road; right (west) on Manchester to Hwy 109; left (south) on Hwy 109; 2 miles to Woods Avenue; right on Woods Avenue; and then immediately right on Glencoe Road; follow signs.

AREA HOURS:

Sunrise until 1/2 hour after sunset.

VISITOR CENTER

HOURS:

Open seven days a week, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., during March, April, May, September and October. The Visitor Center is closed on weekends during June, July, August, November, December, January and February.

ABOUT THE AREA:

All facilities are free to the public, including:

\*Education Center with exhibits and interpretive programs.

\*1,898 acres of rugged, mostly hardwood, forested land interspersed with springs and streams.

\*Three picnic areas (all with charcoal grills), two with drinking water, tables, and one with restrooms.

\*Seven trails (one is self-guided and wheelchair accessible) totaling more than 10 miles.



# How to register for a **DECEMBER** program

Reservations are required unless otherwise specified. Reservations will be taken Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Programs are intended for individuals and families only. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel your reservations as a courtesy to those on our waiting list. Please limit requests to two programs per month, with only one to include an Ages 3-5 program. Please be prompt. Arrival after 10 minutes may exclude you from the program. Interpreting services are available for people with hearing loss, with five days advance notice. If you are unable to attend, please cancel by calling: Rockwoods ext. 0; Powder Valley ext. 0; and Busch ext. 307.

## ROCKWOODS

For reservations, call (636) 458 - 2236

### 7 Holiday Wreath for the Birds

*Sunday 1 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.*  
(All Ages) Get in the holiday spirit and help feed the birds by crafting a natural wreath with lots of edible goodies for our feathered friends. Materials provided. (Reservations begin November 24.)



### 13 The Rocks of Rockwoods

*Saturday 1 p.m. – 3 p.m.*  
(Ages 10 & up ) For those interested in natural geology, there are few places quite as fascinating as Rockwoods Reservation. We will explore the area’s unique environment and learn about history, plants, wildlife and geology. Please wear warm clothes and hiking boots and bring drinking water. (No reservations necessary.)

## Rockwoods Reservation...

is in western St. Louis County. It was established in 1938 by a group of St. Louis businessmen headed by A.P. Greensfelder. Other gifts and purchases have increased the area to its present size of 1,843 acres. Today, Rockwoods Reservation is operated as an area for conservation education. We encourage day-use by the general public, school groups and organizations.



Rockwoods harbors a rich diversity of plant and animal life, as well as springs, caves and rock formations. Cool, moist, north-facing ravines and lush creek bottoms contrast with the nearby arid, rocky ridge tops and south slopes. The terrain is reminiscent of the Ozark hills and, indeed, many plants and animals found in hill country are also found here.

Although located near metropolitan St. Louis, raccoons, coyotes, turkeys, songbirds, chipmunks and snakes are common here, as are possum, fox, bobcat and deer.

Wildlife plantings, brush piles and the control of wildfires are management tools used to maintain and increase the wildlife population on the area.

Interpretive signs throughout the area point out special features or demonstration areas, such as butterfly gardening, birdfeeding, prairie habitat, mining and quarrying and the history of lime kilns. The Education Center contains exhibits and information about the forest, fish and wildlife resources of Missouri.

#### Things to Do:

- \* Camping.  
*For organized youth groups and Scouts by reservation only.*
- \* Hiking.
- \* Self-guided nature trails.
- \* Nature study and birdwatching.
- \* Outdoor photography.
- \* Picnicking.

## BUSCH AREA

For reservations, call (636) 441 - 4554

### 10 Owl Prowl

*Wednesday 7 p.m. – 9 p.m.*  
(All Ages) Whooo is calling in the woods? Join us for an introduction to Missouri’s resident owls and winter visitors. Then take a stroll on the Fallen Oak Trail to listen and, hopefully, call in some owls close to us. Warm clothing is a must for the walk portion of this program. (Reservations begin November 26.)



### 13 Gifts from Nature

*Saturday 10 a.m. – Noon*  
(All Ages) Join us for this informal, go at your own pace program, using natural materials to create holiday gifts and decorations. (Reservations begin November 28.)

### 16 Rudolph’s Friends in Missouri

*Tuesday 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. & 11 a.m. – Noon*  
(Ages 3-6) What do the deer in Missouri have in common with reindeer? What’s the difference? Join us to learn these and other en“deer”ing facts. (Reservations begin December 2.)

### 17 Snow Watch

*Wednesday 10 a.m. – 11 a.m.*  
(Ages 9-12) Why do certain animals hibernate? Learn the world of winter birds and mammals. Anticipate winter with the same enthusiasm as summer. (Reservations begin December 3.)

### 18 Carnivores and Raptors of Missouri

*Thursday 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.*  
(Ages 7-12) Come learn about Missouri’s most effective hunters. The meat-eating mammals and birds of prey are beautiful and highly specialized animals at the top of their food chains. Find out why it is so important that we protect these efficient predators. (Reservations begin December 4.)



### 20 Clark Trail Hike

*Saturday 9 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.*  
(Adults) Join us for an invigorating winter hike through the forests at the Weldon Spring Conservation Area. We will be looking for signs of animals that spend the winter here. A snow cover will help in preserving animal tracks for identification during the hike. (Reservations begin December 5.)

## POWDER VALLEY

For reservations, call (314) 301 - 1500

### 6 Christmas at Camp Wood

*Saturday 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.*  
(All Ages) Learn more about the Lewis and Clark camp, crew and keelboat. See Powder Valley page for more information. (Reservations for stories and songs begin November 21.)

### 6 Oh Christmas Tree, Oh Christmas Tree, However GREEN Your Branches

*Saturday 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. & 1 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.*  
(All Ages) Learn another energy-saving option for your Christmas tree. We will “make” a Christmas tree from recycled materials and raffle it off to one of the participants of this program. (Reservations begin November 21.)

### 8&22 Traveling the Lewis & Clark Trail

*Monday 1 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.*  
(Adults) A volunteer naturalist who traveled the Lewis & Clark trail with his wife wishes to share his experiences. (Reservations begin November 24 and December 8, respectively.)

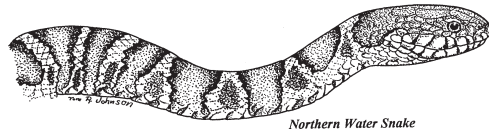
### 10 Owl Pellet Investigators

*Wednesday 3 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.*  
(Ages 7-12) Identify what an owl eats by investigating what’s inside an owl pellet. Frontiers Connection # 38. (Reservations begin November 26.)

## HOMESCHOOL PROGRAM

### 11 Holiday Herps for Homeschoolers

*Thursday 10:30 a.m. – Noon*  
(Families) Get a behind the scenes look at Powder Valley’s Herp Room to learn about the reptiles and amphibians of Missouri. Enjoy a slide show, discovery tables and crafts. Children must be accompanied by an adult. (Reservations begin November 26.)



### 13 Holiday Songs at the Hearth

*Saturday Noon – 2 p.m.*  
(All Ages) Come sing traditional holiday songs, some with a conservation theme. (Reservations begin November 28.)

### 29 Hands-on Herps

*Monday 9:30 a.m. – 11 a.m.: Ages 7-12  
12:30 p.m. – 2 p.m.: Ages 13-17*  
Get a behind the scenes look at Powder Valley’s Herp Room. Learn about Missouri’s amphibians and reptiles while enjoying a slide show, discovery tables and crafts. (Reservations begin December 15.)

**The Powder Valley  
Conservation Nature Center  
building and trails will close at  
1 p.m. on December 24 &  
December 31, 2003.**

*The gift shop will close at Noon,  
so please shop early!*